OCT
2026

Travis County Sheriff's Office

NEWSLETTER

Serving Our Community with Integrity & Professionalism

Public Safety Spotlight



LAKE PATROL TRAINING

TCSO's Lake Patrol, SWAT and Crisis Intervention teams recently joined forces with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Jonestown Lake Patrol and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for a multi-agency training day on Lake Travis. The scenario-based training included high-risk incidents and rescues. TCSO thanks all those involved for participating, as well as those who provided extra vessels, giving participants a great opportunity to sharpen their skills, strengthen communications and improve coordination for complex lake emergencies.



EDGETECH SONAR SYSTEM

Our Lake Patrol unit recently acquired an Edgetech sonar system to enhance underwater search and recovery operations. The technology provides detailed underwater imaging, helping personnel locate and document targets before deploying dive teams. This investment improves operational safety, reduces search time, and allows TCSO to use resources more efficiently during underwater operations.



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sheriff Hernandez served as a guest speaker at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office 2026 Women's Conference, "Stronger Than Yesterday," in Edinburg, Texas. The two-day event brought together women in law enforcement and public safety to celebrate leadership, build connections and encourage professional growth. In her presentation, Sheriff Hernandez shared her career journey and the wisdom behind exploring the "why" that motivates you because it will lead you to "what" you ultimately do.

In the Community



ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

TCSO welcomed families to Central Command on October 24 for a spooktacular evening of Halloween fun! From creative trunk decorations and activities to treats for all ages, the event brought our community together for a festive night. Congratulations to the Corrections Bureau for winning Best Decorated Trunk for the fourth year in a row! A big thank you to Target and H-E-B for sponsoring this year's event and to everyone who helped make it a memorable evening.



AKINS H.S. CORRECTIONS VISIT

Earlier this month, TCSO's Corrections Bureau kicked off another year of partnership with Akins Early College High School by welcoming students in its Criminal Justice Program. Throughout the program, Akins scholars get first-hand experiential learning with TCSO's corrections officers and supervisors at Travis County Jail and the Travis County Correctional Complex. TCSO looks forward to mentoring these students throughout the program and inspiring them to continue exploring their career interests in the field of corrections.



FIRST RESPONDER DAY

TCSO Special Operations units joined fellow first responders at the Provence neighborhood's First Responder Day in Bee Cave. The event gave residents an opportunity to connect with first responders and show appreciation for those who serve and protect. Thank you to Provence for hosting this great event!



From the Sheriff

Texas is a big state. Really big. It consists of 254 counties and more than 31 million residents. Every two years, the Texas Association of Counties looks statewide for county programs that create new, efficient and effective solutions to challenges facing local governments. Programs that make it to the top of their list earn a County Best Practices Award.

I am so very proud to tell you that TCSO is an award recipient this year for our POWR Program. Texas Association of Counties recognizes that public safety professionals routinely serve their communities under demanding and tragic circumstances. They acknowledge that public safety professionals often face unique challenges when seeking assistance, including confidentiality, stigma and the responsibilities associated with their service.

In their proclamation to the Travis County Commissioners Court on October 27, they emphasized that TCSO fosters a culture in which seeking support is encouraged and employees are provided with meaningful resources to promote their mental, emotional and overall wellbeing.

I cannot adequately express just how much it means to me to see TCSO singled out among so many counties and quality programs. None of this would be possible without the efforts of TCSO's Trauma-Informed Care Program Administrator Karen Ranus and our tremendous partnership with the Samaritan Center. We all know we have something special here at TCSO, and now the rest of the state knows as well.



On August 19, 2022, TCSO arrested Phillip Sorrentino and charged him with Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child. In January of 2027, he was indicted on one count of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child, four counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child, two counts of Indecency with a Child by Sexual Contact, three counts of Sexual Assault of a Child, and three counts of Sexual Performance by a Child.

On September 28, 2026, A Travis County jury sentenced him to life in prison for the Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child charge, 20 years for each count of Sexual Assault of a Child, and 20 years for each count of Sexual Performance by a Child, all to be served concurrently in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Congratulations and job well done to everyone who had a hand in investigating this case and delivering it for prosecution. Children are the most vulnerable victims, and they rely on us to amplify their voices. Her voice was heard thanks to your efforts!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On October 6, TCSO deputies and staff joined neighborhoods across Travis County for National Night Out. These gatherings provided a great opportunity to connect with residents, strengthen community relationships and celebrate the partnerships that help keep our neighborhoods safe. Thank you to everyone who invited TCSO to their block parties and helped make this year's event a success. We appreciate the opportunity to connect and look forward to next year!

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CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

On October 9, Courthouse Security Deputies Robinson, Guerra, Tablas and Mueller visited Cathedral School of Saint Mary as part of the school's community service education program. The kids loved meeting the officers, listening to stories and of course, asking lots and LOTS of questions!

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DAY OF THE GIRL

On October 11, Sheriff Hernandez celebrated International Day of the Girl with a local Girl Scout troop at The Little Blue Montessori School. She shared insights into her role as sheriff, TCSO's service to the community and the importance of leadership and helping others. The girls asked excellent questions and were encouraged to dream big and be a positive influence to the people in their lives.

Proud Highlights



COBRA 121 GRADUATION

The TCSO Training Academy offers a Corrections Officers Basic Recruit Academy (COBRA) and all new-hire corrections officers attend the required course while on duty within their first year of employment. They receive 360 hours of education designed to fully prepare them for the role of corrections officer, and earn their Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Jailer License.

Congratulations to the following officers of COBRA Class 121 who graduated on October 2: Angelo Abella, Lesly Acevedo, Gabriel Aguilera, Paula Bermudez, Francisco Bruno, Melinda Clark, Safuiane Fonoti, Omar Garcia, Amilcar Gomez-Paz, Christian Harman, Gregory Harvin, Khattab Hashim, Eric Hernandez, Julian Hernandez-Enriquez, Debra Jackson, Lakenya Johnson, D'Landria Kemp, Chaz Labato, Joel Lehnen, Christopher Lemus, Edwin Lopez, Omar Mendoza-Botello, Alysia Moreno, Reagan Norris, Jean Nuñez Celis, Virianny Ortiz, Adrian Pachón-Acevedo, Jose Rangel, Concepcion Rendon, Miley Rudnick, Christopher Schaffhauser, Shayna Tyler-Eckstrom, Jasmine Vasquez, Zakyah Watson and Jamesha Williams.